

In the Claims

Please delete claims 1 to 11 without prejudice and replace with new independent claim 38.

38.(New) A communication system comprising:

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a narrowband to broadband interface having a plurality of network adaptors arranged into a plurality of clusters supporting associated communication functions and each interconnected to at least one switch that provides access to a plurality of virtual channels supported by a broadband network, the plurality of network adaptors being further coupled to a plurality of narrowband trunks that each support at least one of a plurality of different communication functions; and

at least two call servers each containing at least one mutually exclusive group of trunks and each independently coupled to the narrowband to broadband interface and arranged to control interconnection of a call between a narrowband trunk and a virtual channel of the broadband network, the at least two call servers being responsive to a group of trunks that support common communication functions within each group such that communication system functionality is separated between the at least two call servers; and

a plurality of geographically distributed narrowband-to-broadband interfaces interconnected by a broadband network;

wherein the plurality of network adaptors are distributed across the communication system;

wherein interconnection of a call on a narrowband trunk is independently controlled by either of the at least two call servers;

a1 wherein one of the call servers is selected to control the interconnection of the call based on a single communication function supported by the narrowband trunk;

wherein the group of trunks contain trunks that are incident to a plurality of network adaptor clusters; and

wherein the at least two call servers include:

a first call server arranged to administer the control of a first group of communication services within the communication system and between the plurality of geographically distributed narrowband-to-broadband interfaces; and

a second call server arranged to administer the control of a second group of communication services within the communication system and between the plurality of geographically distributed narrowband-to broadband interfaces.

Please amend claims 12 to 14 to read as follows:

12. (Amended) The communication system of claim 38, wherein the first call server is an active system control device and the second call server is a standby system control device that is selectively operational to support communication system functionality.

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13. (Amended) The communication system of claim 12, wherein the second group of communication services contain trial services and wherein the first group of communication services contain current subscriber services supported by the communication system.

14. (Amended) The communication system of claim 13, wherein the at least two call servers have associated virtual channels.

Please amend claim 16 to read as follows:

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16. (Amended) The communication system of claim 15, further comprising means for mapping logical addresses used by the at least two call servers into physical addresses of network adaptors, wherein the logical addresses are independent of the physical addresses.

Please amend claims 18 to 21 to read as follows:

18. (Amended) The communication system of claim 17, further comprising a memory for storing mapping relationships between the logical address and the physical address.

19. (Amended) The communication system of claim 18, wherein the logical address is a network service access point identity.

20. (Amended) The communication system of claim 19, wherein the physical address is an individual trunk circuit identity.

21. (Amended) The communication system of claims 20, further comprising a fabric application interface coupled between the at least two call servers and the narrowband-to-broadband interface, the at least two call servers arranged to communicate logical addresses to the narrowband-to-broadband interface via the fabric application interface.

Please delete claims 23 to 26 without prejudice and replace with new independent claim 39.

39. (New) A method of deploying a communication system containing a narrowband-to-broadband interface having a plurality of network adaptors distributed across the communication system and each interconnected to at least one switch that provides access to a plurality of virtual channels supported by a broadband network, the plurality of network adaptors further coupled to a plurality of trunks that each support at least one of the plurality of different communication functions; and at least two call servers independently coupled to the narrowband-to-broadband interface and arranged to control the interconnection of calls between narrowband trunks and virtual channels of the broadband network;

the method comprising the step of:

separating functionality associated with the plurality of network adaptors between call servers whereby each of the at least two call servers is responsible for controlling the interconnection of a group of trunks that share a common communication function; mapping logical addresses used by the at least two call servers into physical addresses of network adaptors, wherein the logical addresses are independent of the physical addresses; and translating a physical address of a first network adaptor having an associated first logical address into a